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Newsletter of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning



Fractal Tree Archway,
Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon, Washington

Installation - Paul Sorey BLA, 84



InSites is an annual newsletter published by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at Utah State University.

Please direct alumni news and comments to Kathy Allen 4005 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT or email kathy.allen@usu.edu

Design and Layout - Kathy Allen and Rebecca Clark

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Greetings from the Department Head



*Neighborhood alley in Hahoe, a Joseon Dynasty traditional village.
Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, South Korea*

InSites newsletters have for decades captured the news, happenings, comings and goings, and celebrations experienced by LAEP. This year, the tales shared in each edition have been made available, online, as part of a revamped department web site. In years to come, as others look back at this present issue, it will be apparent the full magnitude of change that LAEP has experienced as America has endured the woes of the “great recession”. Change, indeed, is in the air.

A year ago, Pres. Albrecht charged LAEP with one of the most unique and catalytic tasks an academic department could face: recommend, from across USU, the college your department should be placed in. Over the course of 5 months, LAEP faculty engaged students, alumni, leaders in industry, and colleagues across campus in a ‘site selection’ process that relied upon the unique processes our discipline trains us in. The result will chart a course for decades to come.

On July 1, LAEP was formally aligned with the College of Agriculture. The move was unanimously supported by the faculty and by USU administration, and placed the department within the college that had housed it from 1939 until 1956. Positive changes from the move have been felt immediately, and include:

- Conducting a national search for a new assistant/associate professor Emphases: sustainable development, construction, planting design, graphics
- Hiring of a new, full-time staff assistant
- Hiring of a new Alumni Development Assistant/Undergraduate Advisor
- Commitment by Dean Noelle Cockett to serve as an LAAB

Rove team member

- Support for new and ongoing LAEP facilities initiatives

Our new college alignment was sparked by the split of our former collegiate home—HASS—into two new colleges. However, in hindsight, the real credit is probably best assigned to the diversity of skills and perspectives that USU administrators have seen in LAEP over the decades. The department is not aligned with any single college more than all the others, thus the decision was left up to the department. By undergoing that process, LAEP emerged with a focused, clear focus that embraces both our historic strengths and our current opportunities.

What LAEP is today, as in the past, is largely a reflection of who the faculty is. The sequence of retirements over the past years has ushered in new leaders, with distinct areas of expertise, and exciting missions to serve the profession. It has also meant the parting of valued colleagues and friends. This summer the LAEP family mourned the passing of emeritus professor John Nicholson. John was a friend, mentor and life inspiration for countless students and colleagues over his 20 years of service to USU. In response, the Nicholson family is partnering with LAEP to establish the John K. Nicholson Scholarship (see Memorial on the last page).

2010 has also brought numerous research and scholarship efforts by students and faculty in the department. Noteworthy among those was the partnership formed between the firm of Design Workshop, cofounded by LAEP alumni Joe Porter and Don Ensign, and USU to create the Design Workshop Archives and Digital Collection. This first of its kind project will create a repository for projects, images and writings amassed over the firm’s 40-year history. The online delivery of the archive will enable open access to the contents by designers worldwide.

Personally, 2009-2010 afforded some special opportunities for me, including several trips. In addition to regional travel to meet with our alumni, I was invited by South Korean colleagues to tour their country, give lectures on design for crime prevention, and study a provincial eco-park for future designs. My fall and spring terms have been busy with migrating the department to our new college, to initiatives surrounding reconnecting with alumni, and to changes in our Advisory Board and its preparation for the department’s anniversary in 2014.

I am particularly excited to see the planning that is underway for LAEP’s 75th Anniversary Campaign. This effort is a multi-year project that will emphasize equipping of and goals for the program’s next quarter century. With our new hires, a new college home, remodeling of key department spaces, and our leadership in new initiatives such as USU “sustainability degree”, the program is poised to advance in several important ways, and has great potential as it partners with practitioners and alumni. Without a doubt, these are some of the most promising times our program has seen in memory.

GO AGGIES!



Sean E. Michael, PhD
Professor / Dept. Head



The 2010 LAEP Charrette - “PROVIDENCE CITY – Mixed Use & Envision Cache”

The 2009 Charrette (Envision Cache) focused on best ways of managing growth and development within Cache Valley communities and suggested implementation of principles such as “mixed-use” developments, the creation of centers, trail systems that connected centers, allowing for higher densities, encouraging infill, and many others. However, some of the smaller cities were not sure what it would mean to them if they implemented some or all of the principles of the Envision Cache study. These dilemmas led to our 2010 charrette as Providence City needed to understand how these principles would affect their community.

The student charrette teams looked at issues that included locating and illustrating mixed-use developments, creating a new downtown, improving the image and identity of Providence, improving trail systems throughout the community, and improving existing centers and creating new centers and activity places. The charrette started on Monday, February 1st and ended on Friday the 5th. All LAEP students participated and each team integrated members from freshmen to grad students. Every team was required to produce one or more 24” x 36” posters and a 5 minute power point presentation. The posters and power points were presented to Providence City by the team captains after the charrette, and the posters were displayed for two weeks in Studio 102, the new gallery in our building.

We see evidence of the value of our charrette work as communities implement ideas of the students, use the work to obtain grants, or use the ideas to guide consultants. Just this summer we saw all of the Sanpete County Charrette included in the Management Plan for Heritage Highway 89. The students do good work and it is fulfilling for them when their work is utilized and valued.

Above - team meeting on street Below - LAEP students read history of Old Rock Church in Providence



Logan was blanketed with a foot of very wet snow when the 2010 Sustainable Landscapes Conference began a day long discussion of what makes “healthy communities”?

Sharen Hauri, the very first conference organizer 11 years prior, began the day by talking about her work of balancing the natural and built



Sharen Hauri

environment at Psomas in Salt Lake City. Following Sharen was **Dee Merriam** from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta,



GA. Sharen and Dee had a lively discussion about the issues facing landscape architects when designing community spaces.

Part of the funding for the conference was provided by the CDC in a grant

awarded to conference organizer **Chris Harrild** and LAEP professor **Keith Christensen**.

Harrild designed the conference with a unique aspect of an “un-conference”.

Guidelines to follow for the un-conference breakout sessions were listed in the front of the program. Session participants were told that



Chris Harrild



Building Healthy Communities - April 1, 2010

however many people were in the room were the right amount, there is no such thing as a bad idea, and if you felt you were not getting what you needed out of a session it was perfectly fine to move to another concurrent session.

In addition to Merriman other keynote presenters were **Robert Hoover**, Principal at HBLA, Inc. and **Robin Moore**, Director of the Natural Learning Initiative and Professor of Landscape Architecture at the College of Design at North Carolina State University.

Un-conference break out sessions included **Sharen Hauri** - “LEED Follow or Get Out of the Way”, **Christie Oostema and Jay Baker** - “Envision Cache Valley”, **Keith Christensen**, “The Impact of the Built Environment on Physical Activity of Individuals with Disabilities”, **Caroline Shugart & Robert Schmidt** - “If you Build it, Will they Come? Motivating People to Use their Landscapes to Become Healthy”.

The Sustainable Landscapes Conference is completely student led and organized including the choosing of topic and speakers. One or two MLA students typically take on the majority of work, however all the

Caroline Shugart demonstrates how many teaspoons of sugar in a soft drink



3rd year graduate students participated by assisting with accounting and organization of mailings, layout of cards and program, scheduling and pick up of meals or other conference needs.



Third year grads left to right - Emily Wheeler, Colleen Corballis, Lindsay Ex, Sarah Nelson, Ken Richley, Chris Harrild, Skyler Westergard, Jeff Hamarstrom and Osmer Beck

Landscapes of the American West Exhibit by Professor Caroline Lavoie

Fuhrmans Framing and Art Gallery in downtown Logan, Utah hosted a special exhibit during Logan's annual Gallery Walk, from September 17 – October 8, 2010. Landscapes of the American West by LAEP's own Professor Caroline Lavoie displayed a series of hand sketches, drawn directly on site in order to capture the relationship between the artist/designer and the landscape. The show examines the process involved in drawing on site: seeing, interpreting and internalizing the qualities and variations of the landscape to facilitate a form of interaction with the viewer.

For Lavoie, "drawing in the landscape creates an awareness of place that is a distinct form of information gathering and of understanding the landscape. The act of awareness in drawing involves our imaginative perception of space: an active visual, physical and cultural relationship to the land. Thus, each drawing is a unique re-construction of one's perception of space, a critical aspect of how one proceeds with visual research and design."

Ms. Lavoie is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. She joined the Department in 1995. She holds both a Master of Landscape Architecture and a Master of Planning in Urban Design Studies from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She received a BLA degree from the Université de Montréal. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. She has been a Fellow of the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies in Utah (1999-2001).



Attendees enjoying the opening of the exhibit on September 17, 2010

Graduate Studio Remodel

During the school year 2009-10 the LAEP graduate studio received a face lift. With one-time funding from the Dean of the College of HASS, the interior of the studio was completely changed. In addition to upgraded drafting tables and work areas for the graduate students, the studio also has an area for small meetings and teaching space, a larger meeting area and a cutting/project assembly surface.

Each student has a locking cabinet, a drafting table and smaller computer laptop table plus a comfortable chair. The center meeting area is carpeted and surrounded by a steel structure to delineate the space. The old metal flat files were stacked and surfaced with cutting mats.

The entry room which once walled in a small computer room was removed to create a carpeted classroom/meeting area. The classroom has a 65" television paid with funding from the Graduate Student Senate Classroom improvement funds. The space is used almost daily by small classes and groups wishing to project high quality images.



Top - view of the old space

Bottom - front area after wall removal



LAEP Webpage Has a New Look

In 2010, The College of Agriculture created a new website and asked all the departments to use the same template. This summer 3rd year grad **Amanda Dunlap** migrated information to the new format and the site was launched in September.

The front 3 photos will change often to reflect current events in the department, but the content behind the first page is basically the same as the old website, however navigation is a bit different. To move through the LAEP pages all the page links are on the left side. Those at the top will take you back to the college webpage.

The webpage is a good way for alumni to keep up with what is going on in the department. Under the Alumni tab there is a plug-in to update contact information. Please provide your email address so that we can add you to our alumni listserve.

We hope to add a tab soon for posting job openings.



Amanda Dunlap

LAEP Staff Assistant Named Classified Employee of the Year



In spring 2010 LAEP faculty and students wrote letters of support for Kathy Allen to receive the award of Classified Staff Assistant of the Year for the College of HASS and she was selected as the college award winner. She was recognized at the annual HASS awards ceremony with a certificate and \$100.

The College of HASS also entered Kathy as a candidate for the Utah State University Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year award.

She was surprised with the overall USU award at the annual employee recognition luncheon held in April. So surprised she almost didn't attend the luncheon as she was planning an LAEP event and didn't want to take the time to go. Receiving only sketchy information regarding the lunch from Department Head Sean Michael, she walked into the ballroom and all LAEP faculty were in attendance. Kathy said, "At that point I realized it was looking pretty good for me to receive the USU award in addition to the college. It is a great honor to be chosen for both, and I will treasure the letters of support from faculty and students forever." The USU award included a plaque, a gold watch with USU printed on the face and \$1,000.

Kathy has handled all the staff functions for LAEP for the past 5 years but also manages the planning of several yearly events such as the Advisory Board

meeting and award's banquet plus the design and layout of InSites.

With the recent move to the College of Agriculture, Dean Cockett provided the funding for a much needed second staff position which was filled in late August. Rebecca Clark joins the department from her previous position in the faculty assistance center. Her knowledge gained in FACT is a welcome addition to LAEP.

Asphalt Farm



S'more Parks

September 17, 2010 International
Park(ing) Day



Cloud Appresiation

LAEP students participated in Park(ing) Day as part of Recreation and Open Space and Urban Planning Studios. The labor is extensive to transform a traditional parking space to a temporary park for the day. The students stay in the area to talk with passers by in attempt to bring awareness to the need for more parks and open space planning in urban areas .

- Original concept by Rebar www.rebargroup.org

Spontaneous Regrowth



DeVine Intervention



Park(ing) Day™ 2010

Dee Foundation-Swaner Green Space Fellowship Awards

This summer, the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) at Utah State University, through the Swaner Green Space Institute awarded three graduate students with the Dee Foundation - Swaner Green Space Fellowship Award. The Fellowship was made possible through the support grant from the Lawrence T. Dee and Janet T. Dee Foundation. This award supports student thesis projects related to open space issues. This award will facilitate and increase the exposure of student's research. By supporting these students, the grant helps make possible dissemination of research through publications and conference presentations.

The awarded students this year are:

Neal K. Barth who is working to develop a comprehensive pedestrian trails plan for Cache County. His research focuses on best practices for wild land urban interface and pedestrian trails.

Ken Richley is looking into the identification of successful open space strategies to preserve open space, analyzing the key factors contributing to success. His thesis looks to help communities determine which strategies can work best for their open space implementation efforts.

John Gottfredson, is analyzing the profitability of conservation developments in Utah to contribute to the evidence from conservation developments around the country. This award will help him gather information and attend an Urban Land Institute workshop

The fellowship has been awarded for 6 years, supporting exclusively students in the MLA program working to understand and document open space planning and design.



Neal Barth



Ken Richley



John Gottfredson

This summer I had the chance to intern with the Landscape Architecture Foundation. For those unfamiliar with LAF (LAE), it is a non-profit organization that funds research to keep landscape architects at the forefront of environmental issues. Its 26 board members come from some of the top firms in the country and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since LAF is a non-profit organization, they hold a series of events to increase awareness and to encourage donations. I was given the opportunity to do the graphic design for these events as well as coordinating many of the details related to them. From catering, to our ASLA Expo booth, to our annual benefit, I was the guy behind the scenes making sure everything ran smoothly and looked good. I learned a lot about public relations, business etiquette, personal organization, and all the

Morgan Handley

LAF Intern - 2010

headaches that come with making an 8.5'x 12' poster. More importantly, I got to see first hand what some of the leaders in our industry are doing, and where they are trying to take our profession as a whole. Major firms like Sasaki, Olin, AECOM, and JJR, are making strides to help landscape architects be key players in addressing the environmental issues we face. Not only was it exciting to see landscape architects, but also contractors and vendors like ValleyCrest and John Deere Landscapes come together on these issues. From my experience at the Landscape Architecture Foundation, I gained a greater awareness of the possibilities and realities of our profession and gained some valuable relationships along the way.



Recreation and Open Space 2010

A student favorite in the Landscape Architecture program is Recreation and Open Space Design because of the great field trips for site visits. One of this year's projects is to look at the possibility of an additional ski run at Beaver Mountain in Logan Canyon. Rick Dustin, a U.S. Forest Service landscape architect, spent 3 days with the students and accompanied them on their field trip. Rick has been involved with ski resort planning in Colorado as just one of his many projects in public lands throughout the western United States.



Left - Rick Dustin talks to students, Left below-Rec and Open space students Shannon Rudd and Rebecca Thorpe crossing a stream, Top right-students look over the proposed ski lift area, Bottom right-Rick Dustin leads the class to the top of the mountain. Rick is off in the trees far ahead of the pack.



This year's project for LAEP 6100, Regional Landscape Planning Studio, is the result of a combination of a series of fortunate events that are producing an interesting package of exciting challenges and learning opportunities for our graduate students. Traditionally, the regional analysis and planning course takes outreach projects and this year is no exception. Our study illustrated alternative sustainable scenarios for the Wasatch Academy Campus and its surrounding region. The region includes the city of Mount Pleasant in the context of Heritage Highway 89 through Sanpete County. The alternatives were derived from information gathered from research, interviews, surveys and workshops.

Mount Pleasant is a community of 2,800 residents located in the center of the state on Heritage Highway 89. Part of Sanpete County, this cluster of towns and cities is known as "Little Denmark" from the Scandinavian pioneers who settled the area. The County population is close to 25,000 people. Wasatch Academy, a boarding high school established in Mount Pleasant since 1875, is looking to adopt a sustainable vision not only in their educational philosophy but also in their internal operation and their relationships with the surrounding region. The Academy has been developing their vision led by an alumnus of both LAEP (BS, 1963) and Wasatch, Joe Porter. Joe, with another LAEP alum --Don Ensign (BS, 1963), co-founded Design Workshop in 1969.

This project has several goals for the Wasatch Academy, the City of Mount Pleasant and for LAEP:

- It presents LAEP graduate students with challenges and opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills to address current issues in sustainable planning and landscape architecture in Utah.
- Creates learning opportunities for LAEP and Wasatch students through collaboration with other students, faculty, community leaders and local residents.
- Allows the class to influence a vision of sustainability helpful to frame future development decisions and actions from the Region and the Academy.

During the first trip of the semester to Mount Pleasant, our students met with the project team at Wasatch Academy, conducted interviews with local residents, met with different government agencies, photographed the place, identified visual

A Planning Studio with Joe Porter: Exploring Sustainability in Mount Pleasant and Wasatch Academy

landmarks and culturally significant places and did a lot of talking and walking. Joe Porter's guidance through previous working studios in Logan and Mount Pleasant was a wonderful experience and a valuable learning opportunity for our students. David Bell's experience and knowledge, combined with Joe Porter's vision and enthusiasm will produce great work and meaningful contributions to the future of the Academy and the Mount Pleasant area from our graduate students.



Grad students, Yue Zhang, Becca Buckley, Brock Anderson, Sherry French review documents with Joe Porter



Travel - Slovenia to India

Allan Perry

I took the opportunity to study at the University of Ljubljana Department of Landscape Architecture in Slovenia during the Spring semester 2010. It was a great experience to live in a European city full of history and charm. Slovenia is a small, but beautiful country surrounded by Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia. Even in such a small country, Slovenia's terrain varies greatly from the Alps along the northern border and the Mediterranean to its west and in between you encounter lush green forested hills topped with old churches and castles, picturesque lakes, vineyards and small farming valleys. Ljubljana itself is a beautiful historic city. I enjoyed wandering through the city and learning about its history. It has a great urban atmosphere with interesting architecture and a variety of small shops and cafes, and there is always some event going on. It is surrounded by many forested hills and it was easy to walk a few minutes from the city and be in a secluded forest.

One of the classes I took was a drawing class. Many times we would visit sites in the city or travel to surrounding cities and villages to learn about and sketch different types of landscapes. It was a great way to see the sites of the country and understand the structure of different cities and villages through sketching. I also participated in a studio class where we were involved in a project for a Slovenian city called Slovenska Bistrica. Our project involved coming up with solutions and designs for a city park that was originally a historic baroque garden. We were then able to present our ideas back to city leaders and community members during a small workshop.

Before leaving Slovenia I was able to arrange another exciting travel opportunity. LAEP alumnus and Advisory Board member, Prashanta Bhat (BLA '92), allowed me to



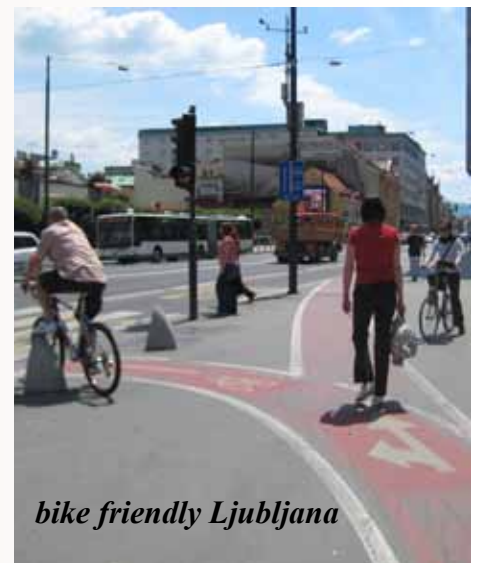
Ljubljana, Slovenia

visit and intern at his office "The Landscape Company" in Bangalore, India. I left Europe and flew straight to India for an amazing six week stay. I didn't know what to expect in India and it was a bit of a culture shock, but it was exciting to learn about a different culture and experience so many new things. Six weeks is a short amount of time to try and experience all that India has to offer since it is such a vast and diverse country, but during the internship I stayed with a great family in Bangalore and met many other great people who took good care of me and helped me experience and learn as much as possible.

I was able to be involved with many projects The Landscape Company was working on, ranging from residential designs to large apartment complexes. They gave me opportunities to design and helped me improve my ideas through critiques. I was able to practice my computer skills by helping make SketchUp models to present designs to clients. I also participated in site visits and meetings with clients. It was exciting to get a taste of an office environment and learn how they approach each project and work through the process with the client. I was also challenged to sketch, take pictures, and learn about some specific landscape designers and



sketching class



bike friendly Ljubljana

present what I had learned to the office. I was also fortunate to visit a few historic sites in the region and learn some of the history of India.

In all, from the picturesque landscapes of Slovenia to the incredible sites of India, it was seven months of learning from new ideas and experiences! I enjoyed every minute of it!



Flower market in Bangalore



Ruins in Hampi

Right - The Landscape Company Office, Principal Prashanta Bhat LAEP Advisory Board member.

LAEP students wishing to learn more about study in Slovenia or possible internships at the Landscape Company in Bangalore, India should inquire in the LAEP Office.



City of Hampi



Riding in a Rickshaw



Distinguished Alumni - 2010



Curt Gordon -
BS, 1990

For the past 25 years Curt Gordon has been involved in land planning and real estate development. He was born in 1959, the son of a Utah artist Royce Gordon. He grew up between the San Francisco Bay Area and Cache Valley. He served a two year mission for the LDS church in Toronto Canada, and married his high school sweetheart, Brenda Nelson. Curt attended Utah State University, where he obtained a B.S. in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, and is a recipient of the Morris Travel Fellowship.

With school behind him, he embarked on a successful career as a land planning consultant in Park City. He later went to work for the Silicone Valley defense contractor Lockheed Martin as a site development manager where engaged in project management and commercial real estate development.

By the late 1990's Utah beckoned. He moved from California back to Cache Valley working as a city manager for several years. Leveraging his experience in the areas of development and government administration, he went to work for the State of Utah and was responsible for the planning and development of

the States' high value real estate holdings. Several years ago he accepted a position as the CEO of a private development company developing master planned communities in St. George where he works today.



Dale Shafer
BLA - 1987

Dale Shafer is a Senior Associate, Senior Designer at Thomas Balsley Associates in New York City. Dale received his BLA from Utah State in 1987, followed by an MLA from the University of California at Berkeley, where he was awarded the Barlow Award for Design Excellence and received First Place in the Thomas Church Design Competition. He has practiced for over twenty years with renowned design offices in San Francisco, Boston, and New York.

Dale notes that he has had a great run of fun and wonderful projects over the years, working for really talented people, and on a diversity of project types.

Mr. Schafer offers over 20 years of design and project management experience working with multidisciplinary teams to ensure that the landscape planning component is successfully realized.

His experience with landscape planning on diverse project types such as urban

open space revitalization, mixed-use developments, and medical and academic campuses is indicative of how he can successfully create exterior spaces that balance aesthetics, architectural relationships, programmatic issues and environmental concerns.

In his professional career, Dale has been involved with many exciting projects including the Magok Waterfront Master Plan in Seoul, Korea, where the city is transforming 300 acres of ex-urban sprawl and marginally productive farm land into a metropolitan park thematically focusing on history and nature. Other Korean projects include Busan Lotter Tower in Busan, Korea -- the residential, office, hotel as one of the tallest buildings in the world with a serpentine skim fountain, stone sculptures, sunken garden and shade overlook grove.

Mr Shafer worked as the senior designer with Samoo Architects in developing a new landscape master plan and headquarters building for Kyungwon. The design focuses on the new student center's sunken plaza and develops a coherent landscape framework that makes this portion of the campus easy to navigate for pedestrians. Several secondary objectives such as providing a pedestrian friendly experience, dynamic yet direct cross-campus access, diversity in landscape spaces, and the provision for a central civic open space are addressed in the final vision plan.

He has also worked as senior designer on many parks, universities and libraries in the United States including the final stage of the St. Louis Arch connector and Hunters Point Shipyard & Candlestick Point - San Francisco, CA developing a master plan for a 500-acre industrial site; the other is also a 276-acre sustainable mixed use community. With emphasis on sustainability, design tasks include: planting strategies that use native species, roadway greening, incorporating the localized capture and reuse of stormwater for irrigation, the specification of pervious pavements to reduce runoff, developing rain and roof gardens to slow peak stormwater events, and to design legibility into all of the efforts.

Dale resides in the Hudson River Valley, two hours north of New York City, where he has also established his own office.



Ireland

Laval Morris Travel Award - 2010



Jeff Hamarstrom

A 1000 pictures taken, 700 miles driven, 31 places visited, 26 cups of tea drank, 24 counties driven through, 23 hours in a plane, 9 different accommodations, and one indescribable experience.

Starting in Dublin, I took a trip around the entire country of Ireland. The goal was to visit castles, gardens, urban places, and natural landscapes. One undefined goal was culture; to just visit a new place and take in something that wasn't America. Small rural roads, houses practically on the street, and cups of tea

everywhere made it a great experience. Each day brought new adventures in the form of heavy morning fog to the unexpected Galway Oyster Festival or the confusing but very interesting medieval downtowns. Ireland was a great place to visit and even after 7 days in country, I only scratched the surface.

The Laval Morris Travel Scholarship is awarded to a 3rd year graduate or senior student to travel outside the US. The award amount is \$1,500.



Blarney Castle. The Poison Garden. Various poisonous plants. DO NOT TOUCH!



Dunluce Castle on the west coast.

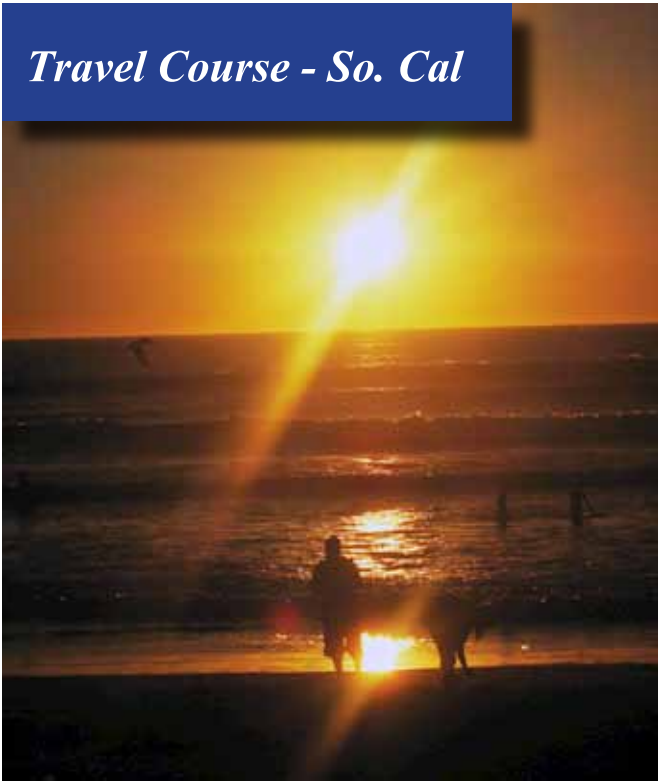


kissing the Blarney Stone



Brigits Garden. An Irish roundhouse.

Travel Course - So. Cal



Once again, LAEP descended on Southern California for a Spring Break filled with learning and fun. Professors Timmons and Yang, accompanied by 22 students, navigated the freeways of Los Angeles and San Diego in four minivans, visiting the highlights of landscape architecture and connecting with numerous LAEP alumni, who generously shared their time and wisdom.

Day one featured an evening at the spectacular Getty Museum, followed by sushi adventures in the Japantown area of central L.A. Our downtown accommodation situated us well for a six hour Sunday morning walking tour of the city, featuring Halprin plazas, the Disney Performing Arts Center, Pershing Square, and countless wonderful urban experiences. LAEP made the LA evening news, as students riding the Angel's Flight funicular railway, newly reopened following major restoration, were interviewed by reporters covering the event. Of course they were wearing Aggie Blue, and of course, they plugged USU LAEP during their moment of glory! The afternoon drive to San Diego was rewarded with an evening in Balboa Park.

Monday began with a ride downtown on the red trolley, and a visit to the offices of EDAA-AECOM, where we were hosted by Principal Rick Barrett, BLA'79. Lunch at Horton Plaza was followed by a

Four Vanloads of LAEPers Log Miles in Southern California

walking tour of downtown. Our second day in San Diego featured visits to Foothills Associates, with Dick Rol, MLA'99, and to the CalTrans District Offices, with Ted Thurston, MLA'89. In between came stops at the UCSD campus, Torrey Pines Golf Course, and of course, lunch on the beach at LaJolla Cove, complete with sand Frisbee.

Wednesday, it was freeway time again. Back north to Orange County, where Randy Jackson, BLA'70, Principal of the Planning Center, lead a tour of

Poly campus. All were happy to unwind from another busy day at the beautiful Huntington Gardens in San Marino.

Friday. Drive time again, to Ranch Palos Verdes and a rendezvous with Michael Schneider, BLA'81, and Principal of Orange Street Studio. Michael has specialized in residential design, winning numerous awards for his projects throughout the LA region, and a tour of one of his current client's homes perched atop the Pacific coast provided great contrast to some of the larger scale projects visited earlier in the week. Visits to the Office of Mia Lehrer, a classic Beverly Hills estate from the early 20th C, and the Getty Villa in Malibu, got everyone in the mood for our final evening on the beach at the Santa Monica Pier.

Nearly 800 freeway miles and seven days later, a weary group boarded Jet Blue in Long Beach on Saturday for the journey home. As the traffic-clogged freeways faded into distant memory and we left the sunny landscapes of Southern California to return to a Cache Valley just beginning to thaw, all seemed content with memory cards filled with images and imaginations primed with new possibilities.



Students jump for joy to be out of a vehicle

the office, followed by site visits to two current projects, and treated us all to a genuine Mexican lunch. Corbett Belcher, BLA'01, Ken Smith Studio West, provided a tour of progress on the Orange County Great Park site (called by many the greatest park since Central Park), followed by a visit to the office with Principal Ken Smith.

Up early in the morning, and back on the highway for a 60 mile jaunt east to Redlands, and ESRI, where S.J. Camarata, MLA'82, Director of Corporate Strategy, joined us for a tour of the campus and introduced us to founder Jack Dangermond. From Redlands to Pomona, and a visit to the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies and the Cal



Above - LAEP Advisory Board member Randy Jackson and students visit a site. Below - group



This year, the LAEP spring break trip took nine students to Mexico City, Queretaro and San Miguel Allende. David Bell and I, together with this enthusiastic group of students spent the week visiting several sites and projects.

In Mexico City we visited the ruins at Teotihuacan and Templo Mayor and spent time walking through downtown and Coyoacan. We also visited a full spectrum of projects, from Barragan's intimate gardens in his studio and the Capuchinas convent, to the construction works of the Mexico City's new sewer system.

We could not miss Mario Schjetnan projects in Xochimilco and Chapultepec. Food and transportation were always an adventure in this 20 million people city.

After three days in Mexico City, we traveled to a middle size city, Queretaro, a colonial town with a very friendly atmosphere. In Queretaro we walked around downtown through a series of plazas in and out of courtyard colonial buildings. We also

A little traffic in Mexico City



visited a couple of architecture and urban design firms.

Throughout the trip, students were chased by teenage kids wanting a photo with the group. The trip ended in the small and relaxed town of San Miguel Allende. In spite of few problems with airplanes in SLC and a couple of sick students for a day, the trip was a successful event and a great experience for many of our students. It was really interesting to see them walking and making comments about spaces, plants, and people's behavior. It was fascinating to see them mixing their awareness of the space and the people with their own discovery process.

- Carlos Licon



Aggies in Mexico

Left to right. Ben Warren, Tad Hansen, Justin Charlton, Blake Burton, Andrew Stringfellow, Whit Morris, Logan Moore, Zac Roberts, Skyler Westergard



InSites 2010

A visit to the treatment plant a big hit with the boys - they get hardhats



Mark Johnson - BLA '75

Mark Johnson co-founder and principal at Civitas, was recently selected to redesign the iconic Plaza de Panama in San Diego's Balboa Park.

Civitas also recently completed its submittal and final presentation for the redesign of the grounds of the St Louis Arch in collaboration with Peter Walker Partners of Berkeley and Norman Foster and Partners of London.

Other Civitas projects include urban regeneration and waterfront projects in San Diego, St. Louis, Greenville, SC and New York City.

Mark Johnson will lecture on the role of design and public health in three upcoming world congresses in Brussels, Abu Dhabi and Capetown.



*Rendering of the North Embarcadero project,
San Diego Waterfront*

Paul Sorey - BLA, 1984

Self-employed public artist and landscape architect. Company name 'Sightworks', Seattle, WA

www.paulsorey.com (public art website). Recent project 'Fractal Tree Archway' at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, WA, (featured on the cover) commissioned by Washington State Arts Commission.

Description: Two sixteen foot tall stainless steel fractal trees create an arched entryway for a new Health Sciences building on a college campus. Artist statement: "I am fascinated by the branching structure of trees found



throughout nature, by the many roles of trees in ecosystems, and by their symbolic, psychological and space-creating significance to humans. The form of the trees resulted from experimenting with fractal branching patterns."

Stuart McDonald - MLA '79

Stuart McDonald manages the website called American Trails and writes, "A great resource for planning, building, and managing trails and greenways is www.AmericanTrails.org. If anyone has a trail-related study, thesis, or article about a project they would like to share on this online library, send a note to Stuart at mactrail@aol.com"

Kelly Gillman BLA - '94



Kelly is a principal at CRSA in Salt Lake City and manages transportation work. He has considerable experience working with

agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations, but also with many of the local and regional campuses of higher education. This work includes campus and urban planning and landscape architecture.

Currently, is a sub-consultant to Parsons Transportation Group. Kelly is the task lead for station planning on Utah Transit Authority's FrontRunner South Commuter Rail project. Past transit work has included collaboration with rail station platform/site planning for UTA's FrontRunner North and Mid-Jordan/Draper TRAX LRT projects.

Kelly's recent work has included land use planning for Logan City and the Logan-Cache Airport to allow compatible development to occur around the airport while protecting the airport from encroachment. Kelly is also working with Utah Nature Conservancy to develop a master plan for the the Canyonlands Research Center at Dugout Ranch. This site, near Canyonlands National Park, will provide facilities for researchers from Utah State University to conduct climate change research.

Kelly has been the chair for the Salt Lake City Transportation Advisory Board, past president of the Utah Chapter of ASLA, and serves on the ASLA National Archives Committee. Kelly has also served as adjunct professor at Utah State University in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, and sits on the department's Advisory Board. Recently Kelly completed visual resource management (VRM) training with the Bureau of Land Management.

Craig Harvey - BLA, 2004

Craig writes, "I graduated in 2004 and worked for PDG, Inc. designing landscapes for Flying J Truck stops. In the fall of 2006, I enrolled at Penn State University's Master of Landscape Architecture program for Watershed Stewardship. I graduated in 2008 with an MLA (I followed 4 other USU LAEP alums: Steve Torgensen, Brent Earley, Dan Sonntag and Cody Brazell). Just before graduating from PSU, I was hired by the City of St. George as the Residential City Planner and it has been an enjoyable job. I currently assist in the City with the Historic Preservation Committee, the Sign Review Board and several other committees and boards. Additionally, I review all landscape plans for any proposed project in the City. Occasionally, I even get to do some landscape design work too. I am preparing to take the AICP exam and the LARE exam within the next two years."

craig.harvey@sgcity.org



Chris Harrild- MLA, 2010

Excerpt from a Herald Journal Article
Cache County has a new planner. Chris Harrild, previously an intern with the Development Services office, was hired in late June for the Planner I position. "The most appealing thing is it gives me the opportunity to become more involved in day-to-day things that happen, becoming more of an influence in helping people work through planning issues," Chris said.

He has been an intern in the office for the past 14 months, assisting in a variety of areas, including researching water rights issues for ordinance language, dealing with permitting issues and interacting with the public. He said his studies in landscape architecture provide a good theoretical framework for his new role in the planning office. "Chris was a perfect and natural fit to move him from a 14-month trailing experience into a full-time position here," Josh Runhaar, (BLA, 2002) director of the county's Development Services said. "He knew our processes; he knew how to handle the issues we handle; he knew what struggles we're having and what things we're working on long-term." Harrild lives in Logan with his wife and four children.

Skyler Westergard - MLA, 2010

Skyler is working in Redmond, WA since graduation in May and recently received a promotion. He has about 12 people working directly for him and is managing over a million dollars annually in business. He has been involved with several designs including a project on a Marriott Hotel which had installation completed this Fall.



Michael Hancock - BLA, 2009

"After graduation with my BLA and a year using my LA skills at the USU Research Greenhouse, I entered law school at BYU. I am looking into using my landscape architecture education as a springboard into Environmental Law, where important issues such as sustainability, environmental planning, resource management, and environmental impacts from new and existing construction are decided."

Osmer Beck - MLA, 2010

Osmer started working for Transcon Environmental Inc. Salt Lake City (Sandy) office in August doing tele-communications projects in Southern Utah, a transmission project in California and environmental compliance for the Milford Wind Corridor in So. Utah

Left to right, Chris Harrild, Skyler Westergard and Osmer Beck on a graduate student planning theory field trip.

Kevin Jensen - BLA, 2008

"I finished my MLA at Penn State last May and I have taken a job in Philadelphia Water Dept at the Office of Watersheds (phillywatersheds.org). I've been planning and designing green infrastructure projects throughout the city. We look at converting vacant lots in the city's combined sewer overflow districts into parks or community green spaces that take in and manage runoff from the streets. I'm really enjoying the projects and the people I work with; there is something that feels very Olmsteadian about creating public amenities in conjunction with infrastructure.

I am also acting as a consultant for the Philadelphia Water Dept. to provide design assistance to commercial property owners. The city has a new stormwater fee that charges customers based on the amount of impervious surface that they have on their property. I provide a set of conceptual recommendations that demonstrate to customers how they can reduce their annual stormwater fee by implementing stormwater retro-fits on their properties (i.e., raingardens, underground storage, cisterns, stormwater planters, green roofs, etc.)."

Jeremy Nelson - BLA-2010

Jeremy is the Landscape Designer for USU Housing Facilities, and writes, "projects are being built and I'm doing well!" He is applying to graduate schools and will be pursuing a masters degree in landscape architecture. Jeremy said, "I'm hoping for North Carolina State University as it is the best program for natural play design."



Colin Olsen - BLA 2010



Colin Olson has been working since graduation in new construction landscaping at Riverside Country Club in Provo, UT. He worked on the hard and softscape of the front of a cafe, and designed the planter below. Colin writes, "I started out just laboring, and still basically

am just a laborer, but one day they were discussing something with a planter that I thought would neither look right



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nor function well. I butted in and suggested a change, which they liked and since then have been able to do a lot of the design for different projects we've worked on around different areas of the country club. I haven't been compensated like a designer, but I guess I'll take the experience and the portfolio builder.



Alumni News

Jamie Maslyn Larson

BLA - 1997



Jamie Maslyn Larson is Director of West 8's New York office and is Principal-in-Charge of West 8's American projects, working alongside Adriaan Geuze as Design Director. Jamie has committed her career to the implementation of public space projects, bringing over 13 years experience in all facets of design, public outreach, permitting, and construction administration on projects with multiple jurisdictions and agencies. For Governors Island Park and Public Space project, Larson is leading the design team for the 87-acres of green spaces located in the heart of the New York Harbor. Larson is also directing the work for the new 2.5-acre Lincoln Park in the cultural and civic heart of downtown Miami Beach, Florida. The new urban

space, set to open in January 2011, is West 8's first American built project. Larson is also directing the work for a master plan for Longwood Gardens in southeastern Pennsylvania- a 1,000 acre public garden founded by Pierre du Pont with a rich legacy and natural beauty.

West 8 is an award-winning international office for urban design and landscape architecture, founded by Adriaan Geuze in 1987. Over the last 20 years West 8 has established itself as a leading practice with an international team of 70 architects, urban designers, landscape architects and industrial engineers. West 8's main office is based at the port of Rotterdam, and has three branch offices in Belgium, New York and Toronto. West 8's New York office was established after winning an international design competition for the design of Governors Island Park - a 172-acre island in the New York Harbor. West 8's Toronto office primarily serves the local Waterfront Project. For more information please go to www.west8.com

Lindsay Ex - MLA 2010



Lindsay was recently hired as an Environmental Planner for the City of Fort Collins, CO.

Sumner Swaner - BLA, '84

Sumner Swaner with his mother Dr. Paula Swaner transferred the ownership and oversight of the Swaner Preserve and Eco-Center to USU earlier this year. The gift, value in excess of \$30 million, is the largest private gift in USU history.

The Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter consists of a 1,200 acre land trust in the Snyderville Basin and a 10,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility dedicated to environmental education. The preserve protects critical wetland and foothill terrain in the heart of one of the state's fastest-growing areas. The EcoCenter, completed in 2009, is a multi-use facility with space for educational and community activities. The facility is LEED Platinum Certified.

The current board of directors will remain in place as an advisory board to oversee the Swaner mission and secure the ongoing funds to operate the programming. Like other USU outreach facilities,



the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter will be self-sufficient in funding. The current staff will remain in place to continue and expand the Preserve and EcoCenter's educational programming, and community and children's programming.

<http://www.swanerecocenter.org/>



Robert Behling,
BLA'73 - ASLA Fellow

Robert Behling, Principal with EDSA Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla, was one of 41 members selected by the ASLA for induction into its distinguished Council of Fellows at the 2010 investiture reception and dinner at the ASLA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Fellowship is among the highest honors ASLA may bestow and recognizes the significant contributions these individuals have made to the profession and the public through their works, leadership and management, knowledge and service.

Robert Behling has advanced the state of the art of landscape design and educated the public through his many interpretive centers and resort destinations. With more than 300 projects in 40 countries worldwide, he has changed the face of tourism and interpretive centers with his outdoor learning spaces and living demonstrations and has dramatically improved the economies of countries in which his projects have been developed. Behling has created a resort-destination business model that embraces a philosophy of integrating the work of owners and builders to produce projects that are visually exciting, functional, profitable, safe, and sustainable. Bob is a Distinguished Alumnus of the LAEP Department.

ASLA Student Chapter - 2010

At the end of last semester I was given the opportunity to become the President of the student chapter of ASLA. I believe it is my job to promote enthusiasm and optimism among the students and I have high expectations for improving the student's chapter as well as improving the atmosphere within the department.

There are four over-riding themes that I anticipate focusing on this year; Professional Development, Inspiring Greatness, Social Interaction and Community Outreach.

Professional Development is the main objective for this year. The overall goal of professional development is to help students prepare themselves for the professional world as well as allow students to have leadership experiences that will prepare them for professional firms. For the first year we are implementing a Student Mentor Program. This was a collaborative effort involving the Utah ASLA chapter as well as the USU Student ASLA chapter. The program allows students to be matched up with a professional mentor that will teach, motivate and give exposure to the professional world. Students that participate in the mentor program then mentor the lower classes.

Currently there are twenty-two seniors and third year graduate students participating. In the future, we anticipate that we will be able to pair each junior, senior, second and third year graduate students with a mentor.

The vision behind the Inspiring Greatness theme is to help students realize their potential as future leaders of the profession. If students are to reach this potential they need all the developmental opportunities they can get now while they are in school. Big concepts were envisioned to increase knowledge, skill sets. I feel there is no limit to what a student can accomplish. Through studio improvements, increasing student led competitions, creating new resources for students to realize potential and having weekly student led training programs; students in LAEP will be able to realize the greatness that I know is inside of all of us.

Community Outreach was another
InSites 2010

objective for this year. We are currently striving to increase the awareness of Landscape Architecture throughout the state of Utah and also outside the bounds of our state. This is being accomplished through various channels. Through our new appointment in the College of Agriculture, our department has been able to appoint a AGA ambassador who will travel to high schools and help inform students across the state about our department and professional trajectory.

Our Community Design Teams work with community members on various design problems. A few examples of these include a project at Bear Lake dealing with a design of an entrance to a new development.

Students are also helping in the efforts to design the new Stokes Nature Centre as they strive to build their presence at their new home at Second Dam in Logan Canyon. We are determined to showcase the department and the profession of Landscape Architecture throughout campus, high schools and the communities that surround us.

A meaningful responsibility of being USU ASLA President of the student chapter is traveling to the national ASLA meetings. This year they were held in Washington, D.C. This conference afforded me the opportunity to collaborate with professionals and be a part of the discussion about the profession. While I attended the meeting I had a rare opportunity to present our student chapter's goals and thoughts on the profession to professionals from every state. Being able to participate in meeting gave greater insight from a professional which I was then able to bring back to the students.

It has been an honor to be a part of the improvements that have been made within the department thus far. I am anticipating that this is just the beginning. I am excited to see the improvements that will take place in the near future.

*Christopher
Worthington*



Christopher Worthington
President - BLA 2011



Ben Swaner
Vice President - BLA 2011

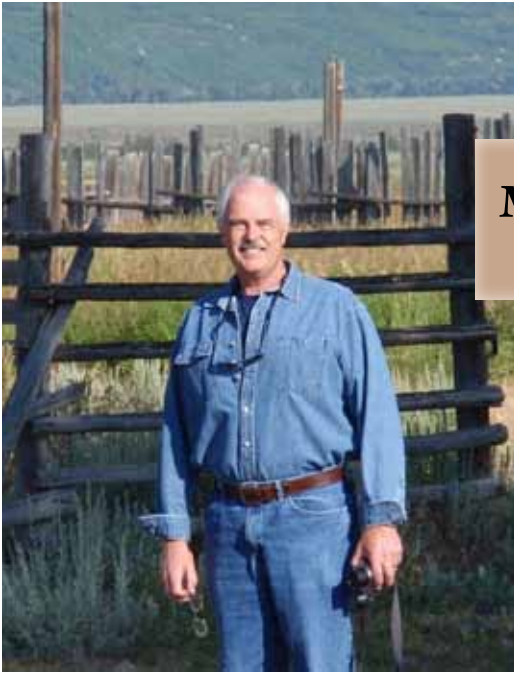


Devin Christensen
Secretary BLA, 2011



Jeff Benson *Treasurer BLA, 2011*

Faculty Updates



Michael Timmons *Associate Professor*

Plan for Pipe Spring National Monument, AZ. These projects have provided valuable funding and thesis opportunities for graduate students in the department, as well as helping to establish the cultural and historic landscape area of concentration in the MLA program.

Work has recently commenced on a CLI for Timpanogos Cave National Monument, in American Fork Canyon, UT. This project promises to be unique in the sense that it includes a survey and assessment not only of traditional cultural landscapes, but also of the designed underground landscape of the caverns. Olena Korotyeyeva, a first year MLA student from Kiev, Ukraine, is the Graduate Research Assistant participating on the project. Spring 2010, Michael will begin work on a Cultural Landscape Report for the Little Bighorn Battlefield, based on the previously completed CLI.

Prof. Timmons was invited to share his work on the NPS projects as a plenary speaker at the 2010 Biennial Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network National Meeting in Washington, DC, in a session entitled Lessons Learned in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management. He was also an invited speaker at the Grand Teton National Park 2009 Resource Symposium.

Landscape History and Recreation and Open Space Planning and Design continue to be Michael's primary classroom responsibilities. Spring Break, 2010, found him (with the assistance of new faculty member Bo Yang) leading a group of 22 LAEP students through Southern California (see separate article). Along with Prof. Caroline Lavoie, Prof. Timmons is planning a two-week travel study experience in Italy, to occur this coming May.

Susan Buffler *Lecturer*



Susan Buffler has been teaching a variety of courses over the last few years. She is currently teaching the LAEP 1030 Introduction to Landscape Architecture course and is continuing to teach the LAEP 3500/6350 Planting Design course and will be helping teach LAEP 1350 Theory of Design in the spring. Susan thoroughly enjoys interacting with the many students and faculty

she sees on a daily basis. Susan's academic interests are food and agricultural systems, native plants, and sense of place. While not teaching, Susan enjoys hiking, backpacking, running, and gardening in scenic Cache Valley and surrounding mountains.



Caroline Lavoie

Associate Professor

I spent the past year (Fall 2009-Spring 2010) in sabbatical. For the first part of my sabbatical I explored Queretaro and Monterrey, Mexico for potential research and sites. My focus was to identify culturally significant industrial landscapes, either vacant or in use, to further design research in redefining and reintegrating those sites to the urban core. Mexico, especially Monterrey, offered great potential sites. During the fall, I was an invited guest lecturer at the Tec de Monterrey. I was also an invited guest professor at Tec de Monterrey in Queretaro where I gave a workshop (in collaboration with Professor Ramón Abonce Mesa) for their masters students in architecture, using drawing as a tool for analysis and design in urban situations.

The second part of the sabbatical helped me solidify potential

collaborative partnerships with Monterrey Tec by applying for a grant application. In collaboration with Prof. Carlos Licon, I was awarded a USU International Curriculum Seed Grant in order to establish an exchange with Tec de Monterrey.

I'm looking forward to a poster presentation for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) in October. The poster is entitled "From utility to meaning: Industrial space transformation in Monterrey, Mexico." The poster examines the relationship between different stages of urban redevelopment of two large industrial spaces in Monterrey, Mexico. It raises issues and highlights potentials for the local communities and the metropolitan region of Monterrey. Fundidora Park to the east of Monterrey is a recently completed 40-acre urban/metropolitan park based on the former steel industry. The second site is a large railroad site which has retained some its freight transportation functions. The poster initiates a comparative analysis on these two industrial sites and their potential impact on local communities.

Two main studio projects/courses will emerge from this sabbatical. The first one is for my LAEP 4100 Urban Design studio, looking at reprogramming

and integrating a railroad site adjacent to a very poor segment of the population in Monterrey, Mexico. The site will have a role both at the metropolitan scale (transportation and industry and potential to open space) and in relationship to the smaller scales of these adjacent marginalized communities. The second studio will be in collaboration with Carlos Licon to develop a pilot project course in Spring 2011 as a capstone international studio experience for the senior students. It will focus on the Pescaria River communities, and the recent impacts caused by the flooding in Monterrey.

The sabbatical also allowed me to expand on my drawing practice and how it reflects on design practice and design process. Throughout the year, I was able to return to Southern Utah and draw. For the last 6 months, I have been working on pulling together sketches from my sketchbooks in preparation for an exhibit. The theme is "Landscapes of the American West". The exhibition will be up until October 8th. I dedicated the exhibition to my dear friend and colleague, John Nicholson, whom as you know passed away this summer. He has been a great friend and was a great inspiration for me for the last 15 years. I will miss him greatly.

The past year has been an exciting one for Keith. He finally finished his dissertation! And while he can officially call himself Doctor Christensen now, his daughters like to remind him that he is not the kind of doctor that really helps people.

During the brief times Keith wasn't writing his dissertation, he was writing. Keith published a study on the effects of neighborhood characteristics on individuals with disabilities' physical activity, and has papers on the impact of land use on individuals with disabilities' employment and the effect of the built environment on the evacuation of individuals with disabilities accepted for publication. Keith's research continues to focus on the role environmental context plays in mediating differential

Keith Christensen

Assistant Professor

access to community resources, which vulnerable community members are often underserved by and which might otherwise limit their vulnerability.

In recognition of his efforts, Keith was invited to serve as a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Persons with Disabilities. In addition to teaching, Keith spends a lot of time with the bright, creative students LAEP attracts, working with the ASLA student chapter, the Sustainable Landscapes Conference, the Artsbridge program, and on numerous thesis committees. Not that he is counting, but he managed to run 5 red pens dry this past year. It's been a great second year with the



LAEP department. And with a new box of red pens, Keith is looking forward to many more.

Carlos Licón

Swaner Assistant Research Professor

participation in the Sustainability Conference in Cuenca Ecuador. This spring break David



students and an interesting collaboration opportunity with Interior design students and faculty. The outcome reflects the positive interaction between both programs. The

Bell and I travelled with nine students to several places in Mexico, visiting a wide variety of sites and projects. After the trip I conducted a workshop for grad students on sustainability and open space planning at the Queretaro campus of Monterrey Tech. Through the year I have been exploring projects with straw-bale construction and getting involved in committees and activities around sustainability issues. I am also working with another student in visualization of open space changes. The theses committees I have been part of, cover different topics. Students ideas are wonderful examples of the diversity of interests this profession can stimulate.

I am excited about the future of LAEP in a new college, with upcoming accreditation and new initiatives than make this program as it has always been, dynamic, exciting and always moving forward. More than anything, what makes this position great is that am still learning about the discipline and about myself through my interaction with students and faculty. I look forward to continue learning and enjoying the company of the LAEP community

My second summer in Logan was spent working on house projects, learning through trial and error, how to build and fix things and not saving any money in the process, but having fun and a getting a few bruises. I see my family adapted well to Logan. So far we have been able to live with one car. There is no doubt this has been an intense year for all of us in LAEP, including students, faculty, alumni, and friends. All these changes and events, have affected us in personal and institutional ways. Two years in LAEP have produced good friends and a sense of belonging.

My courses this year included residential design, urban design and a couple of special topics. The urban design course made redevelopment proposals for the City of Ogden. This was a unique experience for

residential design course explored issues of sustainable design applied in different projects. Readings and special topics in LA dealt with the CEDAR method for open space planning and design.

This summer I started working on a funded research for sustainability assessment on the US MX Border. Interesting times and circumstances to address sustainability in a complicated region. On sustainability assessment I had the opportunity to travel to Barcelona and present my work at the International Conference on Sustainability Modeling and Measurement. The paper presented was selected as one of the best of the conference and was published in the International Journal of Sustainability, Technology and Humanism. I also had an online

Over the past year and a half, Kris has embarked on a new endeavor.... He is attempting to be a runner?! It all started when his wife (aka Coach) asked him to run the Wasatch Back, and he has since completed the Las Vegas Ragnar, the X-terra Trail Half Marathon, the Top of Utah Half-Marathon, another round of the Wasatch Back, and the Logan Peak Hill Run. All this training culminated this past summer at BSA Camp Newfork where he competed in the Scoutmaster heat of the John Colter run. This "triathalon" included a short run, a canoe tour and a quick dip in the icy water, while trying to keep a match dry so it would light at the end. The first Scoutmaster to finish and light his match was deemed the champion. Kris gave it his best effort and finished third only to watch his match fizzle as it was drug across the strike box. Oh well!

Kris and his wife Melanie live in Logan and are raising five boys: Kleese (14), Keeran (11), Kobe (7), Kaemon (6) and Kieon (3). Together they enjoy camping, going on hikes, wakeboarding, snowboarding and an occasional fishing trip. This fall the K-boys are playing Jr. Grizz basketball, so Kris and Melanie are looking forward to many long Saturdays at the recreation center.

Kris is grateful to return as an adjunct instructor for the LAEP department. This semester he is teaching one of his favorite courses, Basic Graphics (LAEP 1200) and a relatively new course, Landscape Materials (LAEP 3600). He is still splitting his time teaching and working at Cache Landmark, where he has recently been promoted to Senior Landscape Architect. He enjoys working on projects throughout Northern Utah and Southeastern Idaho, and providing students first hand opportunities to learn from and visit some of the project sites.



Kris Kvarfordt
Lecturer



David Bell

Extension Associate Professor

The long hot summer seemed very short this year. We were blessed with two new grand children and we had two family weddings, a son and a grandson, and all of that makes time fly. However, those things do get in the way of fishing.

This semester I am helping Dr. Licon in his 6100 class, the third year graduate

studio and making preparations for the 2011 Charrette. This years charrette, our 8th, will be held in Cedar City, Utah. Cedar is a long way from Logan, but has some very interesting issues for the students to take on such as relationships between downtown and SUU, regional and community trail systems, the relationship between the Native American Reservation and the city/downtown. Our biggest problem is how do we get all or part of the students to Cedar City for a site visit before the snow flies. If anyone has an idea let me know. Please read the short article about the 2010 charrette in this issue.

Extension/Rural Intermountain Planning Program projects that have been worked

on over the past year include a number of fun projects including the Manti Heritage Center, a demonstration garden in Cedar City, a Zion Corridor Entry Feature in La Verkin, Lion's Park in Moab, a master plan for Manti Fairgrounds, a landscape plan for an active recreation park in Duchesne, the Big Water Cemetery, etc. As matter of information, some of these projects have, or are generating money for private consultants. For example, this year one plan helped generate about \$100,000 for consulting fees and another will generate about half of that amount. Our goal is to create and help fund projects for private consultants and to provide landscape architecture services for those who have no access to funds to pay for those services along with providing students with real project experiences.

Bo joined LAEP in 2009 and enjoyed his busy life last year. Bo teaches Landscape Construction I, Digital Graphics and City and Regional Planning. Bo also co-teaches Reading Seminar and Emerging Areas courses with several other colleagues. This semester, Bo is excited about his growing-size construction class which has 51 students. He is integrating more discussions on the Low Impact Development strategies into his lectures, partly based on his own research in this area. Bo always encourages his students to seek for job opportunities. One example would be a freshman got a summer internship with the Highmark Group in Draper, after completing the digital graphics class last year.

Advising students is an important part of Bo's academic life. Bo is working with two graduate students on thesis projects. One of the projects evaluates the quality of design and the effectiveness of three stormwater BMPs on water quality treatment. The other project examines the trend of digital communication graphics in landscape architecture education and professional practice. As the Honors Program advisor in the department, Bo is working with several Honors students on a master plan for the new office entrance area of the Honors Program.

Bo's current research examines land-use development and the associated impacts on water quality in Cache Valley. This year, Bo is serving again in the abstract review panel for the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) conference, to be held next March in California. If you find Bo with panda's eyes in the hallway, you shall not be surprised. Because he plays with his 3.5-month old boy, Jon Li Yang, who remains energetic at night.

Bo Yang

Assistant Professor



Bo's first time cooking pancakes for LAEP week breakfast



Shujuan Li

Assistant Professor

Shujuan enjoyed her first year in LAEP. Three students in her LAEP 3300—Advanced Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture—won first place in the student poster contest in 2010 Southwest ESRI Group (SWUG)/Utah Geographic Information Council (UGIC) Conference. One student from that group got an internship with a GIS company in Salt Lake City.

Last year, Shujuan worked with several other colleagues on two projects. One project was “Assessment of Sustainable Development Possibilities of Mexican Municipalities along the United States-Mexico Border” with Professor Carlos Licon and Professor Michael Dietz (CNR). The project was funded by the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission. The other project was “Integrating Land Use Planning Tools for Groundwater and Surface Water Protection in Middle Bear River Watershed” with Professor Bo Yang and Professor Nancy Mesner (CNR). The project was supported by the USU Research Catalyst Grant program.

In the summer of 2010, Bo and Shujuan’s first baby, little Jon, was born. Little Jon’s arrival enriches Shujuan’s life in addition to her career.

Elizabeth Tofte

Lecturer



This fall Elizabeth Tofte is teaching Construction Document Preparation and Pro Practice. LAEP students may benefit from her progressive teaching theory built on experience as a licensed landscape architect, land use planner, and architectural designer practicing in WA, OR, ID and MT and abroad.

Her education is interdisciplinary as well. It includes a first professional degree in architecture from the University of Idaho, a first professional degree in landscape architecture and a master’s degree in regional planning both from Washington State University, and the equivalent of a master’s degree in landscape architecture from Edinburgh College of Art. This fall she will be completing her dissertation in design pedagogy culminating in a PhD in

landscape architecture from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mrs. Tofte’s teaching experience extends across academic fields and practice-based venues to include tutoring positions at the University of Edinburgh, Washington State University, and Edinburgh College of Art; and volunteer positions such as CLARB grader, L.A.R.E. exam writer, and Mock Exam coordinator for both AIA and ALSA interns while IDP coordinator for 300 interns in Portland, Oregon.

During the past year, Elizabeth Tofte presented a podium paper discussing the value of ‘Play’ in Cardiff, Wales at the Architectural Humanities Research Association Symposium; published an article in *Premise Journal* critiquing the use of Dr. Derek Pugh’s approach to managing PhD supervisors; co-authored an article for *Design Studies* analyzing the pedagogical rigor of practitioner-authored approaches to interior design and architecture studio curriculum; and presented findings in support of adding a giant Hackberry to the Washington State and National Registers of Historic Trees.

Elizabeth Tofte continues her research in design pedagogy while she coordinates practice-based learning experiences for the benefit of the junior, senior and graduate students in the LAEP program.

Pam George

LAEP Advisor and Development Coordinator

Pam George (BS - 2009) was hired this year as the College of Agriculture advisor for LAEP on a part time basis and is also working as the department's development and alumni coordinator.

As departmental advisor Pam meets with undergraduate students majoring in landscape architecture and outlines their 4 year course schedule. She also is available if students have scheduling conflicts or need to talk with someone about the major. She is assisted by Peer Advisor Corbin Rasmussen, an LAEP senior.

The department is very lucky to have

an advisor who knows the program as well as Pam. She graduated with her BLA in 2009.

Pam is also very busy working with the USU development office, the LAEP advisory board and making calls to alums in an effort to improve the accuracy of alumni lists. Two years ago the department started an alumni list serve which has only contained accurate emails for a small portion of alums. The list serve is an important tool to keep alumni up-to-date with the latest news and information about



Pam and Ben George

what is happening in the department, including notice of when the newsletter is available. Please contact Pam at pam.george@usu.edu if you have a change of address, phone number or email so that we can include you on the list serve.



Ben George

Online Instructor

Ben George also graduated from LAEP in 2009, but with an MLA. Ben has a bachelor's degree from USU in political science, and a Master's Certificate in Irish Studies from the Queen's University of Belfast, but entered Landscape Architecture after realizing he was more interested in his wife's homework than his own. The couple spent a year in Ireland while Ben completed his schooling.

Ben applied to the MLA program and completed his degree while

Pam finished her BLA. He is currently working on his PhD in Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences at USU. He currently teaches the on-line offering of LAEP 1030-Introduction to Landscape Architecture. Ben has taught the on-line course for the past 3 years and has recently added another course which is required for the degree, PSC 2620-Woody Plants. Creation of this course required the development of a new model for teaching plant identification, as students would

be unable to participate in the traditional method of a plant walk on campus. Students enrolled in the course are able to learn the plants through the use of 3d virtual objects, short videos and detailed information sheets. He is currently working on developing additional pedagogy and methods of teaching landscape architecture on-line in his doctoral work.

New Faces in the Graduate Studio



Dayton Crites

Dayton comes to USU's MLA program after several years working in the bicycle industry. In 2008, while working at Alta Planning + Design – a firm specializing in the planning and design of non-motorized transportation networks – he experienced firsthand how landscape architecture plays a vital role in developing more sustainable, more human, and more beautiful lands. Coinciding with his work at Alta, Dayton co-founded SF Urban Riders – a non-profit branch of the International Mountain Biking Association tasked with improving off road cycling opportunities in San Francisco. These experiences, coupled with a desire to gather the skills needed to create and preserve more recreational trail systems, led Dayton to study at USU.



Olena Korotyeyeva

Olena comes to USU from the Ukraine where she got her work experience and education in graphic design.

For several years she created various environments for video games, but has always felt disappointment that her projects still be in cyber world. With the degree in Landscape Architecture she, hopefully, will be able to create real projects and bring to life her ideas. Her dream is to create livable, human-nature balanced environments that inspire healthy, active, and meaningful life. She liked camping and bicycling while living in the Ukraine. So she chose USU not only because of its unique course of study but also because of its beautiful location which gives great opportunities for outdoor activities.



Kathryn Knight

Kathryn graduated from the University of Utah with a BA in English and a BS in Environmental Studies.

While studying abroad, she developed a fascination with the psychology behind the aesthetics of living spaces and their restorative properties. She spent the last few years studying park and open space designs especially conducive to children with disorders such as ADHD, autism, and depression.

She is also interested in sustainable design, community building, and enhancing the public's awareness of the values and benefits of well-designed green space.



Yue Zhang

Last July, Yue received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture in her home country of China.

The 5 year undergraduate study and internship experience gave her a wide range of knowledge relating to the architecture, urban planning, gardening and ecology, which laid a good foundation for her future advanced study in LAEP.

Her professional interest during undergraduate years was in the combination of culture and environmental psychology in landscape architecture design.



Joel Warren

Joel grew up in Midvale, Utah before going to BYU. He has a B.S. in Geography with an emphasis in Urban/Environmental Planning. Joel has worked as an intern for the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and as a research assistant for various projects in Historical Geography. His interests include hiking, bicycles, music, and history. He is married to Megan from San Antonio, Texas.

Betsy Byrne



Betsy received a BA in Film Studies from the University of Utah in 1998. After spending ten years working as a video editor for a news monitoring company, she decided she wanted to pursue a career that would allow her to be more involved with the outdoors. She began exploring landscape architecture while volunteering for the Salt Lake City Open Space program, and is interested in using the concepts of this field to enhance and promote recreational opportunities. Her first love is biking, but she also enjoys hiking, cross country skiing, and river running.



Ana Báez

While studying Architecture in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Ana had the chance to work in a small project dedicated to community planning in the south-west region of her country. That was when she realized she wanted to spend her whole life working with landscaping and urban planning. Because there is no masters program associated with that field in her country, Ana started looking for some international options and found herself captivated by Utah State University. Her main interest is to return to her country and start getting involved again in this amazing career now with all the knowledge it requires.

The LAEP Department was saddened by the passing of long-time faculty member **John Kennedy Nicholson**. John died July 9, 2010, at the University of Utah hospital, following a two-year battle with lung cancer. Throughout this ordeal, John continued to live life to the fullest, making it his mission to engage in his passions of cross-country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, or fly-fishing. The joy experiencing the beauty of nature brought was a powerful cancer antidote. He was an inspiration to all who watched as he faced the physical and emotional challenges of really LIVING with a terminal diagnosis. John is survived by his wife, Jane; and sons, Patrick and Paul.

John grew up in Lawrence, Kansas, and attended the University of Kansas, where he received his Bachelor of Economics and Master of Urban Planning degrees. Prior to becoming a faculty member at USU in 1979, John worked for several years as a city and regional planner for the City of Casper, Wyoming, and with the Wasatch Front Regional Council. During his 30-year career in the LAEP Department, John taught a wide variety of courses including Planning Methods, Planning Theory, Planning Implementation, and Project Design at the graduate level, and Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture and Architectural Design at the



John Nicholson, A Gentle Man

undergraduate level. John was actively involved with LAEP's Environmental Field Service program, engaging graduate students in hands-on learning opportunities. His efforts through the program with the Bear River Regional Commission, Summit County, Grand County, Emery County, Wayne County and the communities of Moab, Big Water and Bluff, Utah, and Bonneville County, Idaho, assisted these areas in planning for their future growth with an environmental planning perspective.

Some of the most satisfying professional experiences for John included: serving as a consultant to the Utah Department of Community and Economic Development developing a bid for the Winter Olympics in the early 1980s (which helped pave the way for the successful 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic bid), developing and fostering an exchange program between the

landscape architecture programs at USU and the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, planning/leading several spring break study trips for LAEP students to Paris and Berlin, and several stints as Visiting Professor at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Bernburg, Germany. John was actively involved with the U.S. Department of State Fulbright Commission, serving as Fulbright Senior Scholar with the University of Hannover, Germany (1987/88), and the Technical University of Dresden, Germany (1994/95), as well as a Fulbright Senior Specialist with the University of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro (2003). John also served his beloved community of Logan for many years as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Downtown Alliance, and most recently the Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission.

The "John Nicholson Scholarship Fund" has been established for graduate students in John's memory. Donations may be sent to the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department, 4005 Old Main Hill, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-4005.

Giving to LAEP

LAEP has a rich heritage of support from donors whose generosity provides a foundation of excellence. Today our students and faculty rely upon those gifts to prepare outstanding future practitioners. There are many different LAEP scholarships and initiatives that need financial support from donations. They include:

Scholarships & Endowments

- **Kenji Schiozawa** - created by the family of one of the program's founding professors. Given to either a 2nd year graduate student or junior BLA student to assist with the costs of their final year. Students showing promise and high level of achievement in the program are selected by faculty.
- **Laval Morris Travel** - created by founding faculty member Laval Morris. Provides supplemental funding to a graduating MLA or BLA student to travel outside the US. Students submit a detailed itinerary of their proposed travel experience. Faculty review and select the student based on the quality of their proposal.
- **The Gaia Travel Grant**- supports students seeking assistance to advance their understanding of our earth and ways landscape architecture can shape it. The grant is made possible through the generous contributions of alumnae women whose memorable travel experiences have shaped their careers. The grant is intended to enable travel associated with thesis development, independent research, and/or exploration of influential landscapes domestically and internationally. Grant allocation is competitive, however selection priority being given to: Female and minority students.
- **David Jensen Scholarship** - created by alumni David Jensen to



provide funding for a junior or 2nd year graduate student. Students are selected by the faculty. Some recipients are given an internship for the summer at David Jensen Associates in Denver.

- **Craig Johnson Endowment** support for faculty to teach wildlife habitat issues or to bring in wildlife specialists as speakers. Created upon the retirement of Craig Johnson.
- **John Nicholson Scholarship** provides financial support for a graduate student. Created by the family of John Nicholson.

Building Projects/Financial Support

- **Jury Room Remodel** - plans have been developed to upgrade the current jury room space in the LAEP hallway as a multifunction anchor room for the program. Glass front will allow gallery space for student work, but at the same time, continue the current use as classroom and critique space. Naming opportunities for significant donors are being accepted.
- **Studio Upgrades** - the graduate studio was remodeled last year leaving the 4 studios in the undergraduate program in desperate need of new teaching space and student furniture. The current furniture has been in the studios since moving to the fine arts building in the 70s. After the remodel of the graduate studio and the creation of the new classroom area, it has become evident that all students greatly benefit from the



Conceptual designs LAEP jury room

availability of new technology and furnishings. Naming opportunities for significant donors would be accepted.

- **LAEP General Support** - donors who give to the LAEP development fund provide the opportunity for the department to hold the annual awards banquet, BLA graduation and graduate welcome receptions, LAEP week activities, speaker lunches and funding for the annual Advisory Board Meeting. No other university monetary funds can be used for these activities. This fund is also used to purchase new equipment and supplies for students to participate in and produce projects.

Ways to Give

Alumni and friends of LAEP can provide support through several convenient methods such as:

- payroll deductions
- annual pledges
- establishing new funds, endowments or scholarships
- corporate match or gifts
- planned giving (e.g. naming LAEP in a will)

Options are outlined on our website at <http://laep.usu.edu/htm/alumni-giving> or you can call the department at 435-797-0501

